From: claudia.fischmann@gmail.com on behalf of claudia mattison
To: City Council
Subject: Please reject the Israel Boycott
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 9:38:42 AM

Dear Cambridge City Council,

I am writing about the Israel Boycott to urge you to reject it. Please do not abdicate your responsibilities to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies, and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council.Thousands of American companies that are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.

It would be one thing if the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world. However, in this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a goal we share, but will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that belie the hard reality on the ground. There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

Again, I urge you to reject the Israel Boycott.

Thank you for your time,
Claudia